

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

We're on the web at www.williamsparkneighbors.org

PHOTOS BY JERRY LUZAR

Any way you slice it, WPN is 10

Ten years ago, Williams Park Neighbors published its first issue of this newsletter. The feature story detailed the steps taken to that point in founding our little group. 2005's six issues covered our meetings and social events, our neighborhood-wide yard sale, announced the launch of our website, and reviewed nearby restaurants.

Though we reached our membership goal of 80 families, the treasury was thin. Through the Herculean efforts of Social co-chairs Jill Jones and Sandy Hamby, though, we partied well at \$0 expense to our treasury! All food, drink, decorations, door prizes, party furniture and equipment, games, kids' books, and trash bags were loaned or donated by neighbors and area businesses. What a dynamic duo they were.

Another early power-house emerged in the person of Shaun Latimore-Martin who, chairing the Children's Committee, organized events for the small among us. At our very first social, she provided long sheets of colored gossamer fabrics which ignited the kids' imaginations and generated hours of visual delight for adults. Shaun's twice-monthly "Story Time Under The Stars" events were a fabulous program of fun imbued with character building.

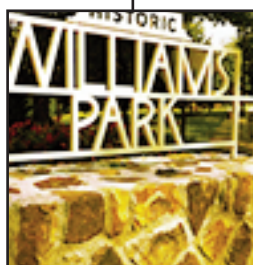
Looking back, it's surprising to see how many of our now-standard events began in that first year. Our first Chili Cook-off was judged by Mayor Bacon, Councilman Scoggins and local restaurateur Amir Askarian and inflatable jumping environments were at all our outdoor events. The WPN book club was established, as were

monthly happy hours, though they were initially held at local watering holes.

In 2006, The MEMO adopted a quarterly schedule and featured columns including "Coach's Corner," "Trees," "Pet Profiles" and "Williams Park Cooks" which Tom Haley always started with, "I'm no chef, but I sure like to cook." By 2008 the previously hand delivered MEMO began being mailed. We reported on the installation of our Williams Park sign toppers in 2010 and our entry sign in 2012.

As the neighborhood group and this newsletter celebrate our 10th anniversary, I want to thank all those who have contributed to the MEMO, past and present, as well as invite the rest of you to send something in. Prose, poetry, a drawing, a photograph—diversity of material makes a better newsletter.

On May 2nd, Williams Park Neighbors will host a big family-friendly anniversary celebration starting at 4 pm. Plans are evolving but you should mark your calendar now so you don't miss it. If you're interested in helping, contact Susan Bentley.



MEMO NOTES

Spring is the time to renew your Williams Park Neighbors membership. Watch your inbox—renewal notices will go out to existing members via email.

If you're not already a member, you're missing a lot—this quarterly newsletter, the **MEMO**, e-mail news, security alerts and updates in between, monthly happy hours, neighborhood cookouts, book club, access to our Facebook page, and loads of other neighborhood activities. Not bad for \$20 a year.

To join or renew, you can send the form printed on page 12 of this issue to the address noted.

Alternatively, you can go to www.williamsparkneighbors.org to pay by Paypal or credit card. Don't miss out on our upcoming Spring events—join today!

Find us on the web at www.williamsparkneighbors.org.

Join us on facebook—Williams Park Neighbors.

We encourage contributions to the MEMO.

Send contributions to Casey Clavin at dinjoblue@earthlink.net

Thanks!

2015 CALENDAR

wpn membership
renewal begins
March 1

wpn general assembly
March 10, 7pm
Smyrna Community
Center

wpn happy hour
Fri., March 20, 7 pm
Doug Erickson
2610 Old Roswell Road
404-307-8997

wpn egg hunt
Sat., March 28, 4 pm
1351 Roswell Street

wpn book club
Sun, March 29, 3 pm
Susan Bentley
2651 Gilbert St.
*Under the Wide and
Starry Sky*
by Nancy Horan

wpn board meeting
April 15, 7pm

wpn happy hour
April 17, 7 pm
Marcia Gipson
2622 Devin Court
770-321-1663

wpn book club
Sun, April 26, 3 pm
Nancy McGee
1389 Roswell St
Flirting with French
by William Alexander

wpn 10th Anniversary
Celebration
May 2, 4pm
details TBA

wpn happy hour
May 15, 7 pm
Bev and Jimmy Denney
1460 Roswell St
678-361-8008

continued on next page...

News in and around Williams Park

Cara and Patrick Thurman stepped up to host our December happy hour when our scheduled hosts had to cancel. The crowd was manageable and the hors d'oeuvres were rather nice at their Gilbert Street residence. We owe them our thanks for pulling it together on short notice and saving the neighborhood's perfect happy hour attendance record.



In January, Doug Erickson hosted us on Old Roswell. During the evening he unveiled the winning entry in his photo contest asking for images that show what makes Williams Park a great place to live. The most votes went to Alicia Taylor's entry depicting her daughter in a wintery Durham Park. Elia's red jacket is the only apparent color in a naturally black and white scene of bare trees in snow. Good shot, Alicia. Good idea to host the contest, Doug. Shutterbugs can go to the WPN Facebook page to learn the subject of Doug's current photo contest.



Dave Chambers hosted us at his Highland street home in February. A fairly good crowd turned out, despite cold weather, for hors d'oeuvres surpassed only by the sound system—audiophiles among us stood slack-jawed as the bass blew gently through their hair. When Academy Awards fans, impressed by the comfortable home theater, begged seats for the show two nights hence, Dave graciously acquiesced to a fast track repeat performance. Thank you, Dave, for being such a good sport and a good host.



WENDY AMUNDSON PHOTO

The first phase of Smyrna's Vision process has produced a final Vision Plan which can be reviewed at the City's website (smyrnacity.com). The next phase focuses on three cornerstones: 1. Involvement and Leadership, 2. Quality of Place, 3. Image and Identity. Additional "breakout" groups will address 1. Schools and Community, and 2. Economic Development.

Smyrna Library has launched a program for homeschool families. Monthly gatherings include stories plus thematically related activities and crafts. While it's best suited to children who are reading independently, children of all ages are welcome to attend. Find information at smyrnacity.com

Keep Smyrna Beautiful will have a free document shredding event on Saturday, March 28, from 9 am until noon at the Aline Wolfe Center (884 Church Street, 30082). Papers may contain staples and paper clips. KSB will also collect old shoes for recycling. Call 770-431-2863 with any questions or for more information.

Halpern Enterprises is now the owner of the Jonquil Plaza site including the (previously problematic) outparcel at the corner, but excluding the two smallish parcels along Atlanta Road still owned by the City of Smyrna. The property was zoned in 2007 for 188,000 square feet of retail space, 29,000 square feet of office space, and 300 residential units. Thus far, the only evidence regarding the new owner's future plans can be observed in their demolition work on the parking structure constructed by previous owners. Halpern is expected to begin sharing more detailed information in the first half of 2015.

Passage of the 2016 SPLOST brings nearly \$53 million for projects in Smyrna including widening of Windy Hill Road with enhancements for pedestrians. Also, \$1 million is designated for intersection improvements at the Five (Six) Points intersection at the eastern edge of Williams Park.

2015 CALENDAR

wpn book club
Sun, May 31, 3 pm
Chris Miller
2686 Devin Ct.
Book: TBA

wpn happy hour
June 19, 7 pm
Mike & Michelle Penny
2601 Gilbert Street
404-432-8154

wpn book club
Sun, June 28, 3 pm
Mary Ann Marchione
1505 Whitfield St.
The Burgess Boys
by Elizabeth Strout

wpn happy hour
July 17, 7 pm
Kimberly & Russell Wright
2794 Morris Circle
617-519-3954

wpn board meeting
July 29, 7pm

wpn summer event
August 1, 4pm
details TBA

wpn happy hour
August 21, 7 pm
Dan Kissner & Korey
Whitchurch
1562 Hawthorne Ave
612-889-4990

wpn board meeting
Sept. 2, 7pm

wpn happy hour
September 18, 7 pm
Cara & Patrick Thurman
2711 Gilbert St.
404-617-6883

wpn general assembly
Sept. 22, 7pm

Meet your neighbor, Crafton Cochran — by Joan Friedman

If we ever have a scavenger hunt in WPN, I want to include the two black cats with attitude. They might appear to be ticked off, but they won't be scratching or biting anyone. Could you find them? The cats belong to Crafton Cochran and they're perched atop two perfectly constructed stone pedestals in front of his house at 1430 Roswell Street.



Crafton, now 84 years old, remembers helping his father when he was only six or seven, to build the stone fence in front of what was then their recently built home. "I'd come in from school, mix up cement in a wheelbarrow. Three shovels of sand, one of cement, some water and a hoe to mix it up." His father, Paul Cochran, "came from the country so he knew how to do everything." The actual stones came from local Rottenwood Creek ("he paid someone to haul them"), as well as from land the family owned — "40 something acres" near Mableton. Crafton recalls that it took a long time to build. Early on, a hired man smeared cement all over the stones. After making the man clean it off, the senior Mr. Cochran apparently decided that to get it done right, he'd have to build it himself. The cats were made by an "arteesan" in Marietta who cut them out of thick iron plate. Crafton recalls his father climbing up on a ladder to put the cats in place.

This stone wall, well constructed by someone who must have been a true artisan in his own right, stands handsome and strong today, after almost 80 years. It's a favorite element of the neighborhood's built environment, even with WP dogs. Across-the-street neighbor, Judi Kessler (on Highland Ave.), often sees dogs walking along the top of the wall, jumping down at the pedestals, then back up again.

But why two Halloween-looking black cats? Simple: "Dad loved cats. He always kept one on his lap, sitting in the living room, nursing that cat and petting it. Sometimes one would scratch him and he'd give it a little bop, nothing to hurt it."

Crafton's first home was at the site of today's Market Village. The family also had a generous piece of land off of Church Street—Cochran used to help plow it with Lou and another mule, and they "kept a horse over there" as well. His father built a house and a barn on that land but had to sell it because "mother didn't want to live in the country. She grew up in the country and she'd had enough." Crafton's father

owned many properties, including part of the Dobbins AFB area and land south of it. The Cochrans owned two rental houses on Elizabeth Street where, Crafton recalls, his dad "put me to scraping the crud in the corners." Just around the corner from there, and still holding worship services, is Spring Street Baptist Church, of which his parents were founding members, along with 30 or 40 other people. "They all come from the country and didn't want to mix with upper class." Crafton is still a member.

Crafton attended Smyrna Elementary School before rising to the newly constructed Smyrna High School across from the First Baptist Church. Today a ball field occupies the site. "I loved my bicycle. I'd ride it to school and leave it in the bushes, out of sight. Sometimes it'd be gone and I knew a friend borrowed it, and then I'd have to walk home for lunch." His parents didn't have money for him to buy lunch, although GB's restaurant along the tracks might have been an option, with its hamburgers, cheeseburgers and chili, "nothing too fancy, a small menu, and they'd wait on you at tables and you sat on stools." When he didn't have his bicycle he'd sometimes have to run back to school. Remembering that, he recited "a dillar a dollar a ten o'clock scholar," referencing his own tendency to be late to school.

Following school Crafton was drafted into the Army, temporarily leaving behind his beloved '40 Ford pick up (black with white wall tires) which he "raced up and down the roads." Serving in



continued on next page

WELCOME

to these new members:

— on anderson —
Jessica & Ricky Lopez

— on highland ave —
Blake Bradley

— on ivy spring —
Sherry Klein
Meredith Odom
Lana Williams

— on princeton trail —
Gernot Ruff

— on walker street —
Andrea Burns
Andrew & Robin Magyar

— on hawthorne —
Marcia & Frank Williams

When a new neighbor
moves in near you, contact
Beverly Denney at
bevmden@aol.com
or 770-231-6274
so WPN can welcome
the newcomers.

Meet Crafton Cochran — *continued*

the Signal Corps in Germany for two years, Crafton's job was to lay cable for telephone poles. He'd sit in the back of the truck and wind the cable wire onto spools by hand as they prepared to put it on telephone poles and trees. Following the Army he attended Georgia State (back then it was College rather than University), utilizing the GI bill to earn a B.S. in Business Administration. He rode the street car into Atlanta from his home on Roswell Street, graduating on June 1, 1958.

Crafton knew a thing or two about business even before making it "official" with a degree. His "daddy" started a successful business delivering produce all over Cobb County and as far up as Acworth. Starting as a child he, his older brother Adrienne, and a cousin helped haul produce to restaurants, institutions and hospitals. As an adult, Crafton continued in the

wholesale delivery business. For a short time he was a business owner right here in WP, running a small produce store next door to his home, in the building where the music school is now. While Crafton's Uncle Arthur had a large successful egg business, his great Uncle Elias might have been the most famous in the family, as attested by the yellowed newspaper article framed and hanging

in Crafton's living room. The Reverend E. A. Cochran of Cumming, Georgia, preacher to over 20 churches, was said to have the longest beard in Georgia. No doubt, as the faded picture clearly shows a beard hanging down to his knees.

Crafton admits to being a "confirmed bachelor" but it's apparent his charm, intelligence, and fun nature earned him a lifetime of friends, among them our own Sam Hamby, who he grew up with. We hope Crafton continues to be our neighbor on Roswell Street for many years to come.



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MILESTONES

births

None reported. Contact
Susan Bentley with
news of births at
sbentley0350@gmail.com

graduation



Riley Shay (Mimosa Circle) graduated from Georgia Southern College in Statesboro in December 2014 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He's in school's record books as a member of the Battleship Championship teams for 2013 and 2014, a competition played by four-man canoe teams in an indoor pool. Riley's currently at home pending completion of his job search.

marriage

Most of you know already but it feels more official to put it in print. Wendy Amundson and Tony Graves tied the knot in 2014. Never mind that their anniversary predates their nuptials by some years, we congratulate them and wish them a long life together.

The Learning Garden at SES — by Hayli McQuade

In late October, Smyrna Elementary School broke ground on The Learning Garden, sponsored jointly by The Smyrna Elementary Foundation, The Smyrna Elementary PTA, The Staff of Smyrna Elementary School, Cobb County School Board, The City of Smyrna, Cobb Master Gardeners and Keep Smyrna Beautiful. Each grade, including special needs classes, will have their own garden for outdoor learning and creative play. The garden is located in back of the school, adjacent to the large play fields. Types of sections in the Learning Garden include:

- "Plant a Row for the Hungry" bed
- Fruit and Berry Orchards
- Fruiting Trees, Shrubs and Vines
- Perennial and Herb Gardens
- Compost Bins, Wash Table and Rain Barrels
- Shade Shelter, Storage Facility and Irrigation

We have a lot of work to do, but we're excited to have started the first phase and look forward to the fun our SES children will have learning, planting and growing. If anyone in WP wants to help "grow the garden" by volunteering, participating in the education of our SES children, or making a tax deductible donation, please visit: <http://www.cobbk12.org/smyrna/foundation.aspx> or email hmcquade71@bell-south.net with questions.

Have you heard about Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)? It's a great volunteer opportunity for Dads, Uncles, Grandfathers, and father-figure/community volunteers (sorry ladies, this is just for the men). This program has been such a huge success at SES that not a day goes by that you don't see a Watch D.O.G. in his shirt helping in carpool line, chatting with students in the cafeteria, helping in the classroom or quietly assisting in the Media Center. Volunteers who sign up for a day (or more if time permits) are provided a schedule detailing where to be and what to do. Male role models in our schools have proven a tremendous benefit to the educational process in our children.

For more about Watch D.O.G.S., visit: <http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs/allaboutwtdogs/>

Here are some upcoming important dates:

- Heritage Night – come join us "Around the world" as we celebrate and learn about all nationalities. Friday, March 6th at 6pm
- Kindergarten Registration – Wednesday, March 25th from 9 to 11am
- Kindergarten Parent Night – Thursday, April 2nd at 6pm



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at large member
Jeremy Fort
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Housing market update

Things are changing. At the end of January of 2014, there were 94 new listings on the market compared to 87 at the end of January 2015. The average listing price last January was \$268,712 compared to \$295,421 this January—that's up 9.94%. However, the sold listings were down 41.51%, from 53 properties in January of 2014 to 31 in January 2015. Average selling prices were \$260,613 in January 2014 and \$287,699 in January 2015. Interesting, though, the average days a property is on the market expanded from 89 in January 2014 to 117 in January 2015. That being said, there are always exceptions—properties that are priced right, in a good location and condition sell quickly.

Other interesting statistics have to do with the absorption rate. In a normal market there should be a six month supply of inventory—lower constitutes a seller's market while higher constitutes a buyers market. From February through July of 2014 the absorption rate hovered around a three month supply. It started rising in August, reaching just over four months by December, then jumping to just over five months in January 2015—a whole month's supply in just one month, the biggest jump in a year.

Next, let's look at sold properties. There were 100 fewer sales in the price range from \$0 to \$199,000 in the last 12 months than in the previous 12 months. And there were 30 fewer sales in the price range from \$200,000 to \$299,000 in the past 12 months than the previous 12 months. Sales in the price range from \$300,000 to \$399,000 stayed about the same over the past 24 months. However, sales in the price range from \$400,000 to \$499,000 rose—40 more properties sold in that range last year than in the year before.

What does all this mean? It would seem that many who wanted to sell waited for the market to come back. As they began to put their properties on the market, the absorption rate started to rise and properties priced correctly sell pretty quickly.

It will be an interesting spring and early summer. If the absorption rate closes in on a six month supply, buyers may become more picky given the greater number of properties to choose from. That could drive prices back down slightly. We will see!!

Finally, one other point is that average prices in Smyrna are slowly rising and more properties are selling above \$400,000 than ever before. The \$200,000 to \$400,000 market continues to be strong, however, and we shouldn't expect that to change anytime soon. Remember, these statistics are for Smyrna as a whole. Time and history have shown that the closer you are to downtown and Market Village, as we are in Williams Park, you can usually get a slightly higher price for your property. Here's hoping spring comes soon!

— Jill Huitron

WP Reads

The WPN Book Club, meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm in a host home. We welcome new participants. To learn which books we'll be reading in the upcoming months, see the calendar on pages 2 and 3. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580.

Here's our latest book.

**The Geography of Bliss:
One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World**

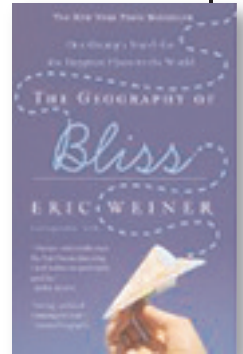
by Eric Weiner

★★★★

Journalist, Eric Weiner, takes us on an amusing journey around the world to find out why the inhabitants of certain places are happier than others.

Our rating system:

- ★ No one liked the book
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous -- don't miss it.



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Cowboy Campfire Chili
Lauren Schneidewind

What's nice about Chili is that almost anything goes. The key that makes Cowboy Campfire Chili great is the attention to preparing the ingredients before they go into the Chili.

1. Marinate 1 or 2 slabs of brisket (approx. 3 pounds each) overnight in Lea and Perins Worcestershire sauce along with black pepper, garlic, onion powder, and 1/4-1/2 cup booze (I like using Rum, Daniel likes using half a beer, you just need a little alcohol to loosen the meat). Smoke the brisket for 4 to 8 hours until cooked (don't worry if it's not tender, that will come later). Keep the fat on brisket until after it's smoked.

2. Smoke these vegetables for the chili base until their skins becomes dark and wrinkled.

- 25 fresh tomatoes (or 16 ounce can)
- 6 red peppers (or 16 ounce can)
- 1 or 2 orange/yellow/green peppers
- as much garlic as you like (I use 2 full bulbs, in olive oil on the grill)
- as much hot peppers as you like

3. Saute 1/2 to 1 pound bacon, reserving some drippings. Saute 5 or 6 chopped onions in bacon drippings

4. Combine in a blender

- chilis (1 to 2 packs dried chili's or 12 ounces chili powder)
- chili base from step 2
- sauteed onions from step 3

5. Cook in a low or warm crockpot at least overnight

- blender mix from step 4
- chopped brisket, fat removed
- 6 to 8 ounce can tomato paste
- 1 beer—any dark beer will work but avoid IPAs which make the chili too bitter
- salt and pepper to taste

Skim excess fat (if needed). If it's too thick, you can add beef broth or another beer. Enjoy!

Kidbits... The Lost Tooth News — by Claire Crowley

During her recent trip to the dentist, 4 1/2 year-old Leah Umberger got her teeth cleaned and her doll, Elsa's, teeth cleaned too! She enjoyed wearing sunglasses and watching a movie while they cleaned her teeth with yummy chocolate-flavored toothpaste (#1).

Bella Claire Crowley lost a tooth at her brother, Finn's basketball game (#2) and carried it home in her coat pocket. Then, she lost her first front tooth one night during her sleep and never found the tooth. But don't worry, the tooth fairy still found her and left some money.

Ansley and Austin Applestone, 11, represented Smyrna Elementary School at the county-wide reading bowl. Their team came in an impressive 8th place overall. Keep up the fantastic reading, twins!

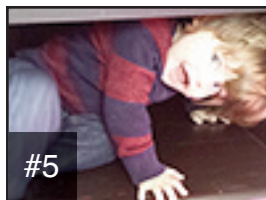
The Adams boys had a blast at the Georgia-Auburn basketball game in Athens. Like their parents, the brothers cheer for different teams, with Collier cheering for Georgia, Asher cheering for Auburn, and Grayson cheering for both. But Auburn took the win by one point! Afterwards, they took a picture in front of their mom's old dorm (#3).



#4

Congratulations to first graders Kosh Fort and Charlie McQuade (#4), recently selected to serve as official greeters at Smyrna Elementary. They're responsible for greeting parents and students to special school events like PTA meetings and the talent show. Nice job, boys!

Charlie Blair, (#5) 1 1/2, loves trips to the zoo, and especially enjoys seeing the flamingos and giraffes. He acts like a little monkey in his new class at The Little Gym where he prefers the balance beam. His favorite, however, is hearing music and MAKING SOME NOISE at The Music Class!



#5

Savannah and William Sudderth started taking swim lessons (#6). One was excited about it, and one was not so sure about jumping into the cold water... can you guess which one? They're both excited about swimming this summer!

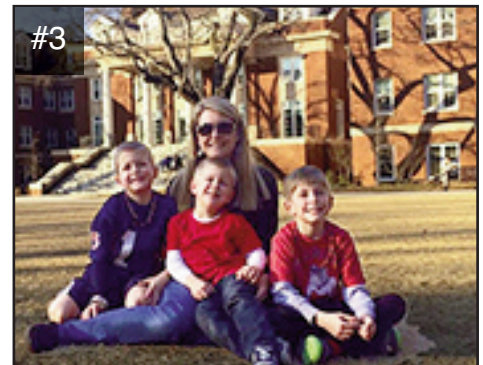
Way to go Conlon Walker, 9, who helped lead his Warriors basketball team to victory during the recent championship tournament! Little sis, Adeline, enjoys cheering from the sidelines while water painting.



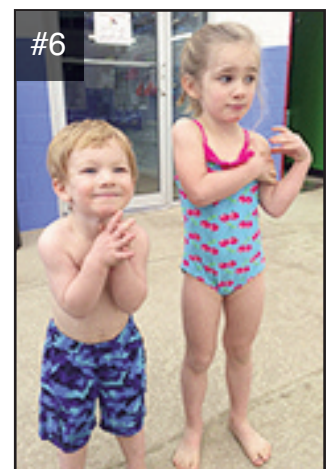
#1



#2



#3



#6

Stick-to-Your-Ribs Chili
Judi Kessler

- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 4 pounds beef chuck, coarsely ground (chili grind) – you'll have to ask the butcher to grind this for you
- 3 large yellow onions, chopped
- 3 red jalapenos, seeded, chopped
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 4 teaspoons ground oregano
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chili powder
- 3 tablespoons ground Guajillo chili
- 1 tablespoon chili de Arbol
- 2 (12-oz) cans beer (dark Mexican)
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 3 (15-oz) cans hot chili beans, partially drained
- 2 teaspoons salt

In a large cast iron frying pan over medium-high heat, warm 1 tablespoon vegetable oil. Add the meat and brown, stirring occasionally, until no pinkness remains, 5-7 minutes. Transfer to a colander set over a bowl to drain the fat.

In a 6 quart pot over medium heat, warm 3 tablespoons oil. Add the onions and sauté, stirring occasionally, until softened, 5-8 minutes. Add jalapenos and sauté 1 minute more. Add the garlic, cumin, oregano, coriander, cinnamon, chili powders, stir. Cook 1 minute more.

Add reserved beef, beer, beef stock, tomatoes with juices and bring to a simmer. Reduce to medium-low, cover partially and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour.

Stir in beans and simmer, uncovered, until slightly thickened, about 30 minutes. Add salt.

Refrigerate. Discard any fat on the surface prior to reheating.

Williams Park Safety Update — by Wendy Amundson

The Smyrna Neighborhood Liaisons met with Officer Cason and several other officers on February 12. Here are some highlights of the meeting.

- The majority of crimes in our area continue to be “crimes of opportunity” such as vehicle break-ins. Local “hot spots” include areas near Best Buy, Red Lobster, and the business area on Highlands Park/Oakdale Road. Police are focusing on prevention as much as investigation. If they see a garage door left open, they may make a courtesy visit to remind you to close it. They’re also checking cars and may leave a “friendly reminder” on the windshield if they find doors unlocked or valuables sitting in open site. Lock your doors. Don’t leave valuables in your car. Don’t leave firearms in your car!

- Take time to catalog the serial numbers on your computers, electronics, fire arms etc. There’s an app called reportit.com where you can store serial numbers.

- Please report any suspicious activity, vehicles or people you see in the neighborhood. The police WANT to know this information. You can call 911 and report a “non-emergency” situation or use the anonymous tip line, 1-844-SPD-TIPS.

- Solicitors should wear an identifying lanyard and have a permit to go door to door. If they don’t, please report them. Some person’s posing as solicitors are actually checking out the neighborhood and/or your home. Call 911. Do not approach the individuals.

- Operation Safe Sale: When making deals from Craigs list or other websites, you can complete the transaction at Smyrna’s Police Department parking lot or lobby, 24/7—no appointment necessary. You can even get an officer to run a serial number scan to confirm that an item is not “hot.”

- Smyrna offers Citizens’ Academies to those interested in having a behind-the-scenes look at our Police and Fire operations. The Fire Academy, a 9 week program, starts 3/26/15, meeting every Thursday from 6-9:00pm. Contact information: tbates@smyrnaga.gov, or 678-631-5461. The Police Academy is approximately 12 weeks in duration. Information can be found at www.SCPFAAA.org

- Smyrna PD now has a twitter page—[smyrnagapolice](https://twitter.com/smyrnagapolice)

Williams Park now has 22 Block Captains whose contact information is available in the WPN directory. You can also contact me directly at wendyamundson@att.net or at 770-865-2347.

Wendy Amundson — Marston, Gilbert to Devin Court

Judy Brassfield — Gilbert from Devin Court to Roswell

Jonathan Stroble — 1312 to 1399 Roswell Street

Beverly Denny — 1406 to 1490 Roswell Street

Melissa Downey — 1469 to 1513 Roswell Street

Jill Huitron — 1539 Roswell Street to Five Points

Tim Gravitt — Whitfield Parc

Stephen McQuade — asst to Roswell and Whitfield Parc

Diana Copeland — Windy Oaks

Sonya Ingle — Highland Ave

Doug Erickson — Old Roswell

Dan Kissner/Korey Whitchurch — Hawthorne

Louisa Cohn — Whitfield Street

Ray Miller — Riley’s Walk

Nathan Dischinger — Mimosa Circle

Stacey Scott — Bernard Court/Lane and Elizabeth

Brenda Eady — 1572 Spring Street to 2940 Anderson

Cat Porch — 2870-2935 Anderson, 1612-1620 Spring

Linda Blackwell — Spring Street townhomes

Maureen Carter — Ivy Springs

Dennis Taboada — 1421-1569 Walker, 2790-2814 Wright

Chris Kuhn — 1575 Walker to Matthews

The role of a block captain is one of communication. If you see suspicious activity, call 911, email wendyamundson@att.net or contact your block captain. We still need Block Captains for 1) North Ave, 2) Whitfield Court, 3) Hawthorne townhomes, 4) Walker Court, 5) Morris Circle and Princeton Trail area. Please let me know if you’re interested. A model neighborhood watch program requires at least 50% of households to participate. If you’re interested in being a participant, please contact your block captain or me at wendyamundson@att.net

1901 Reed House

2751 Nelson Lane

FOLK VICTORIAN CROSS-GABBLED ELL HOUSE

Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies within Williams Park. Nineteen houses still stand that were built before the First World War. This is PART SEVEN in a series of articles covering these houses based on research done in 2012 by WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch.



The Reed House, built facing Atlanta Road, the railroad tracks and the now defunct Nelson Lane (used to run along the eastern side of the tracks), maintains an old street address though it's now accessed from the rear on Gilbert Street. It's a gothic influenced Folk Victorian Gabbled Ell believed to have been built in 1901.

These houses were built in large numbers in both urban and rural areas across Georgia from the 1870s to the 1910s. Folk Victorian houses are simple house

forms with decorative details on porches and gables which are borrowed from the elaborate styles of the mid to late 19th century. This is more a way of decorating a house rather than a true style but, because the Folk Victorian house is so widespread, it's recognized as a named style category by the Historic Preservation Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources.

The Reed House is seen at left in three seasons. It's spring, at the top, with azaleas and spirea flowering; late summer, at the bottom, with crepe myrtle in bloom; and winter, in the middle, with a light dusting of snow as pictured in *Cobb County—At The Heart of Change*, published by the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce in 1991.



1900 Reed House

This is a two story house with a cross-gabled roof in a rear facing L shaped plan. There are six gables—paired at front, one on each side, and two on the back on different planes. The front, oriented as per its original address on Atlanta Road, carries a full height, two-tier, full width porch elaborately detailed with jigsaw brackets and porch rail panels arranged between chamfered posts. The windows are wood double-hung type. Those on the lower front porch are 6 over 9. The others are 6 over 6, arranged paired on the upper front porch and singly elsewhere. There's a transom over the front wood and glass door. One interior brick chimney is visible. The foundation consists of brick piers infilled with solid brick and pierced brick.

Though the clapboard and window trim have been covered with vinyl and aluminum, the house is significantly intact. Details such as the jigsaw cutouts and original style porch columns, so commonly lost from many structures, are still present. The house retains the feeling of an early 20th century middle-class residence.

Benjamin Franklin Reed Sr. bought this property in 1899 and built the house shortly thereafter. He is believed to have founded the first Real Estate Brokerage and Lend Company in Cobb County early in the 20th century—Cobb County deed books do show him buying and selling many properties at that time.

In the 1930s, Reed's daughter and her husband R.E. Griggers owned and lived in the little Whitfield-Hood house covered earlier in this series. Their daughter Elaray Griggers married Robert Edward Flournoy, Jr. who served as Georgia State Representative 1963-64, Mayor of Marietta 1982-85 and a Cobb Superior Court Judge since 1987 to present.

In 1964, Earl Stephens Reed Jr. acquired "the homeplace" from B.F. Reed's estate, then sold it in 1970 to John Leonard.



1900 Reed House

Chain of ownership for parcel 17052101040

year	purchaser	date	book/page
1898	C.A. Baswell	1-25-98	X/548
1899	Benjamin F. Reed Sr.	1-6-99	X/636
1964	Earl S. Reed Jr.	5-29-64	776/294
1970	John F Leonard Jr	6-15-70	1162/171
1978	John W Heaton	10-6-77	1824/428
1981	W.G. Evans, W.J. Douglas	—	2171/295
1999	J.R. & Elizabeth Davis	7-13-99	12688/0284
2002	Ray & Amanda Vogel	5-28-02	13541/867



In 1977 John and Pat Heaton bought and remodeled the place making the front page of the *Smyrna Neighbor* in January of 1978. They called in favors from tradespeople they knew to keep costs down. They hoped to spend no more than \$15,000 remodeling for work that would cost “\$30,000 if hired out. They hoped to be in the place for about \$60,000 total. Their hearts were in the right place and, while they did some things right, they did some things wrong. See that pile of lumber in the foreground of the vertical newspaper photo? That’s the heart pine flooring from the first floor of the house. The author notes that heart pine floors are irreplaceable, then follows owner Pat Heaton as she “gingerly picks her way across a room where the floor has been torn away to be leveled to prevent the furniture from collecting uncontrollably on one side of the room.” Whoops, that was the wrong thing to do.



Subsequent owners left their marks, most notably Ray and Amanda Vogel. Among the nearly innumerable projects they executed, was the addition of a huge enclosed back porch on which they’ve hosted many enjoyable (bug-free) evenings.

While the Vogels have lived outside of Georgia for several years, they’re just now returning to the house they made so entirely their own through considerable expenditures of love and money.

Williams Park Neighbors renewal form

www.williamsparkneighbors.org

**JOIN
OR RENEW
TODAY**

Please renew my WPN membership for April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016
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Dues \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

What information may we include in the WPN directory? Name Address Phone Email

Please make checks payable to Williams Park Neighbors, Inc. and mail with this form to:
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P.O. Box 813811
Smyrna, GA 30081-8811

You can pay online with PayPal. Go to williamsparkneighbors.org, choose "Association Info," then click on "Join WPN."

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